

COMMITTEE ON TRAFFIC/PUBLIC SAFETY

January 2, 2001

6:00 PM

Chairman Clancy called the meeting to order.

The Clerk called the roll.

Present: Aldermen Clancy, Sysyn, Vaillancourt, Pariseau

Absent: Alderman Hirschmann

Messrs: Sgt. Winn, T. Lolicata

Chairman Clancy addressed Item 3 of the agenda:

Communication from Lt. Tracy regarding speed survey at 221 W. Mitchell Street.

On motion of Alderman Pariseau, duly seconded by Alderman Sysyn, it was voted to receive and file this item.

Alderman Pariseau asked are these speed surveys going to be conducted at the request of every public individual or should the Police Department refer the matter to the Aldermen.

Chairman Clancy answered here is how it actually works. If an Alderman has a concern in a certain area, we get a hold of either Tom Lolicata or Jim Winn and they more or less get a hold of the Police Department.

Alderman Pariseau replied I know that but apparently this request came from a private citizen.

Chairman Clancy responded well I don't know why Lt. Tracy did that. Do you know, Jim?

Sgt. Winn stated I don't know why he did that specific one, but I can tell you that we have two machines that conduct the surveys and we usually do the surveys for three to five days. Our thoughts are we will put them out as often as we can to use

them. There is nothing wrong with us collecting the data so we have been honoring...

Alderman Pariseau interjected it is not that I mind but I think the public should be made aware that they could tell the Police Department directly without involving the Aldermen. I don't like it, but...well apparently that is what happened in this case. I don't think that the Aldermen should be sidetracked personally.

Chairman Clancy stated I agree with you because I like to know what it going on in my ward and I don't want anybody going over my head truthfully.

Sgt. Winn replied I don't think we have been approaching it from the fact that somebody has been going over your head. In fact, when we do a survey in your particular ward, we send the results of the survey to both the party that requested it and to you folks to make sure that you folks are kept in the loop.

Alderman Pariseau stated but I would think that the Police Department would notify the Aldermen that a survey is being conducted at the request of so and so. At least give them a heads up.

Sgt. Winn replied we would be happy to do that.

Alderman Vaillancourt stated it seems to me and I don't want anymore work than necessary but it seems to me that a citizen should call the Alderman first and I have had these calls and we have had several done and it seems to me that it should go through the Aldermen and I don't think there is any problem with having this done and I don't think any Alderman would deny it, but I don't think you want every citizen calling the Police Department to have a survey done. I think the process should be to call us first.

Chairman Clancy replied I agree with that.

Sgt. Winn asked is that what you would like us to do is if we get a call for a request for a speed survey is refer them to their particular Alderman and wait to hear from you folks.

Chairman Clancy answered yes.

Sgt. Winn replied okay.

Chairman Clancy addressed Item 4 of the agenda:

Communication from Lemay Brothers, Inc. regarding concerns with parking in the vicinity of their building.

Mr. Lolicata stated this was addressed over a month ago and we have taken measures to put in meters in the Pearl Lot for them. I think this should be received and filed.

On motion of Alderman Pariseau, duly seconded by Alderman Sysyn, it was voted to receive and file this item.

Chairman Clancy addressed Item 5 of the agenda:

Communication from the Multiple Sclerosis Society requesting the use of Arms Park for the MS Walk on Saturday, April 7, 2001.

On motion of Alderman Pariseau, duly seconded by Alderman Sysyn, it was voted to approve this request under the supervision of the Police, Fire, Highway, Traffic and City Clerk.

Chairman Clancy addressed Item 6 of the agenda:

Communication from Jay Taylor, Economic Development Director, requesting the Board allow Arms Park to be included in the Groundwater Management Zone as part of the University of New Hampshire remediation at University Center.

On motion of Alderman Pariseau, duly seconded by Alderman Vaillancourt, it was voted to approve this request.

Chairman Clancy addressed Item 7 of the agenda:

Communication from Robert S. MacKenzie regarding Gold Street area traffic issues.

Mr. Lolicata stated this is already being implemented. Alderman Pariseau requested that we implement the short-range. We haven't started. We are going down there tomorrow because of the storm actually. My understanding is that this is for a month or two.

Alderman Pariseau replied one month.

Chairman Clancy stated this is a pilot program from what I was told. Isn't that right?

Mr. Lolicata replied right. There are going to be three streets blocked off at the bottom.

Chairman Clancy asked Sewall, President and Gold. Is that right?

Mr. Lolicata answered Frontage Road at President actually. It is still Frontage Road until you hit President Road. What I am trying to say is that I am going to go, I think Alderman, two months at the most? I was told one month and we are not going to implement that until maybe this week. I am going out tomorrow to Highway as a matter of fact on this. I will have the signs up by the end of the week probably.

Alderman Pariseau replied the problem is, Tom, that we have been talking about this issue now for a year and a half and we had the neighborhood meeting last August with the people on Gold Street and those areas and they were willing to have a trial run of this traffic calming method, which I thought would occur sometime in November to take care of the Christmas shopping period. That is why we expedited the process and had it referred to the Traffic Committee via a telephone poll and still nothing has happened and we are here again.

Mr. Lolicata stated we are starting it. We couldn't do it last week after we got the poll results from you because of the storm.

Alderman Pariseau replied I wouldn't want to see it go beyond a month because we committed to Public Service to give them an answer relative to the rezoning at the February 4 meeting of the Board of Mayor and Aldermen.

Mr. Lolicata responded okay then we will do it for one month. I will be down there tomorrow with the Highway Department to start this. There will be no humps involved. They can't make them until the Spring so that is completely out anyway.

Alderman Pariseau stated the humps weren't an issue. It was just to put up a jersey barrier in the westbound lane on Sewall, Gold and President Road.

Alderman Vaillancourt asked as part of this proposal are we going to or could we, in fact, get rid of that stop sign on President Road, which is in the middle of nowhere where a stop sign shouldn't be. Can we not get rid of that?

Mr. Lolicata answered I would tend to agree with you. I would like this Committee to take that into consideration because of the fact that none of the people are abiding by it. They are going through it. It doesn't belong on a through street. I would put it on a side street before I would do that but that is still your call. It is not mine.

Alderman Pariseau stated initially, Mr. Chairman, I did get two phone calls in opposition to that stop sign, but apparently it slowed the traffic down and I would want to leave it.

Alderman Vaillancourt replied the problem is that I have gotten calls from people all over my ward saying if you can have it on President Road I want a stop sign in the middle of nowhere also. I think it is a terrible precedent. It is making laws that should not be made and when you do that you encourage people to break laws. It sends exactly the wrong signal that government should be sending.

Alderman Pariseau stated again Steve, it is a matter of enforcement and it is no different than the situation that you have on Pepperidge Drive and Westwood Drive.

Alderman Vaillancourt replied those aren't stop signs there. Those are speed bumps.

Alderman Pariseau stated they have stop signs there as well.

Alderman Vaillancourt replied they have stop signs at corners where people, in fact, are coming together. That place on President Road is not where there is traffic that would necessitate by any regular engineer a traffic sign being there. Stop signs are meant to be put where two flows of traffic come together and somebody has to stop to avoid an accident. That place on President Road does not fall into that category.

Alderman Pariseau responded there is a street there.

Alderman Vaillancourt replied I understand there is a street there, but...

Alderman Pariseau interjected it is Ferdinand Street.

Alderman Vaillancourt asked are you trying to tell me that there is traffic from that street that conflicts with the people going down President or is that stop sign in fact being used for a slow sign, which is not the purpose of a stop sign.

Alderman Pariseau stated it gets them to stop, thereby slowing them down.

Alderman Vaillancourt replied well we could put stop signs everywhere, hundreds of them through the City to get people to slow down but that is not the purpose of a stop sign. It is abusing the use of government. I oppose it.

Alderman Lopez asked how does the Police Department with this month that Alderman Pariseau has indicated, how is the Police Department going to monitor this and if people do go there and don't live in that particular area, that is the idea of the jersey barriers I presume am I correct, how are you going to enforce this.

Sgt. Winn answered it is my understanding, Alderman, that in essence you are going to have one ways down there now with the jersey barriers there. It will be like a one way street.

Alderman Lopez stated but the people who live in that area can still go through right.

Mr. Lolicata replied while they are inside the barriers they can go east and west bound but when they go through the barriers, say to go to South Willow Street, they cannot come up either but they have the option of going both ways within that barrier. In other words, Alderman Lopez, at the bottom of the street there is going to be a one way. Not the whole street, just that legal aspect of 50' or 60' whereby anybody going westbound cannot go up, but the people living up in those streets have the option of coming out of their driveways to go both ways.

Alderman Lopez stated that is my question. Who is going to enforce it and what is the penalty going to be?

Mr. Lolicata replied the enforcement is going to be people coming back from South Willow, going around that barrier and going through a one way.

Alderman Lopez stated my question is, is the Police Department going to...I see where implementation of the Police Department evaluation test...are the Police going to be stationed there to watch what is going on or to stop the people from doing whatever they are doing wrong.

Mr. Lolicata replied first of all, we hope that they don't do it. We hope that they obey the law and do what they are supposed to do. That is the aspect of this whole thing.

Alderman Lopez stated my last question is, I see a lot of dollar signs here. Is each department picking up the cost of this?

Alderman Pariseau replied I would suspect yes.

Alderman Pariseau moved to approve the request to implement traffic calming measures for one month on Gold, President and Sewall Streets. Alderman Sysyn duly seconded the motion. The motion carried with Alderman Sysyn being duly recorded in opposition.

Chairman Clancy advised that the Traffic Department has submitted an agenda, which needs to be addressed as follows:

STOP SIGNS

On Normand St. at Medford St., nwc
On Stonington Dr. at Bodwell Rd. nec
On Morning Glory Dr. at Bodwell Rd., nec
Alderman Pinard

CROSSWALK

On Elm St. south of Webster St.
Alderman Levasseur

PEDESTRIAN SIGNALS

On Elm St., south of Webster St.
Install right green/yellow arrow signals for the northbound right lane at Elm St. and Webster St.
Alderman Levasseur

RESCIND NO PARKING

On Textile Court, south side, from Commercial St. westerly to dead end
On Orange St., north side, from Chestnut St. to a point 84 feet west of Chestnut St.
Alderman Levasseur

On Granite St., south side, from South Main St. to Winter St.
Alderman Cashin

10 HOUR METERS

On Textile Court, south side, from Commercial St. westerly to the dead end
(2 meters)

On Chestnut St., east side, from Orange St. to Pearl St. (7 meters)

On Hanover St., north side, from Union St. to Beech St. (18 meters)

On Orange St., north side, from a point 20 feet west of Chestnut St. to a
point 20 feet westerly (1 meter)

On Chestnut St., west side, from Orange Northback St. to Orange St. (4
meters)

Alderman Levasseur

RESCIND 2 HOUR METERS

On Hanover St., north side, from Union St. to Beech St. (18 meters)

On Chestnut St., east side, from Orange St. to Pearl St. (7 meters)

Alderman Levasseur

RESCIND PARKING 2 HOURS

On Chestnut St., west side, from Orange Northback Street to Orange St.

Alderman Levasseur

ACCESSIBLE PARKING SPACES

Seal parking lot – swc of lower lot – 5 spaces (one van accessible)

South Commercial St. Parking lot, sec of lot – 2 spaces (one van accessible)

South Commercial St. Parking lot, north end of lot at power pole island – 4
spaces

Alderman Levasseur

NO PARKING

On Granite St., south side, from a point 185 feet north of Winter St. to
South Main St.

Alderman Cashin

On Mystic St., both sides, from South Beech St., to a point 60 feet easterly
Alderman Pariseau (emergency act)

On Cumberland St., east side, from Monitor St. to a point 195 feet
southerly (emergency act)

Alderman Thibault

On Candia Road, south side, from Sinclair Ave. to a point 190 feet east
Alderman Pinard

PARKING 1 HOUR (8AM-6PM)

On Dubuque St., west side, from Putnam St. to a point 60 feet southerly
Alderman Thibault

RESCIND PARKING ½ HOUR (8AM-6PM)

On Dubuque St., west side, from Putnam St., to a point 60 feet southerly
Alderman Thibault

PARKING FOR CITY BUSINESS ONLY

In the Pearl Parking Lot, east side, from the southeast corner walkway
northerly for a total of four meters
Alderman Levasseur

NO TRUCKS

On Granite St., Main to Winter St.
On Winter St., Granite to Main St.
Alderman Cashin

NO PARKING LOADING ZONE (8AM-5PM MON-FRI)

On Elm St., west side, from Depot St. to a point 70 feet north
Alderman Levasseur

On motion of Alderman Sysyn, duly seconded by Alderman Pariseau, it was voted
to accept the Traffic Agenda.

TABLED ITEMS

9. Copy of a communication from the Director of Planning to Richard Davis
recommending an alternative to a request for the discontinuance of
Hampshire Lane between Stark and Mechanic Streets.
(Tabled 11/14/00)

This item remained on the table.

10. NEW CROSSWALKS:

On Lowell Street, east of Union Street
On Lowell Street, west of Union Street
On Union Street, north of Lowell Street
On Union Street, south of Lowell Street
Alderman Sysyn
(Tabled 10/3/00)

On motion of Alderman Sysyn, duly seconded by Alderman Pariseau, it was voted to remove Item 10 from the table.

On motion of Alderman Sysyn, duly seconded by Alderman Pariseau, it was voted to approve the crosswalks.

- 11.** Petition for reducing speed limit to 15 miles per hour on Kimball Street, in the vicinity of Kelley Falls Housing Development.
(Tabled 11/14/00)

This item remained on the table.

NEW BUSINESS

Communication from Granite Systems, Inc. as follows:

Dear Alderman Clancy:

Granite systems, Inc. is a software development firm that currently occupies two and a half floors of the renovated Brady-Sullivan office building at 1228 Elm Street. Most of our employees, as well as the employees of other tenants in our building, park daily in the Pearl Street Parking Lot, located across from Elm Street from our offices.

We are greatly concerned about the safety of our employees when crossing Elm Street. Even though there is a crosswalk in front of our building, cars do not stop for pedestrians. We often hear the squeal of tires, and employees often report “near-misses” with vehicles that do not yield.

I am certain that the City of Manchester shares our concern for the safety of employees in the downtown area. We are therefore requesting that the Committee on Traffic and Public safety instruct the appropriate City department to place a pedestrian cone in the center of Elm Street at the Pearl Street crosswalk to alert drivers to their responsibility under the motor vehicles laws to stop for pedestrians in crosswalks.

Granite Systems will take responsibility for putting the cone out in the morning and taking it in at night during the Monday through Friday workweek. We will also purchase the cone, if necessary.

Thank you for your consideration of this request and for your concern for the public safety of Manchester's downtown business employees.

Very truly yours,

S/John E. P. Borden, Jr.
CEO/President

Alderman Pariseau moved to approve the request. Alderman Sysyn duly seconded the motion.

Mr. Lolicata asked am I paying for this.

Alderman Pariseau answered send them the bill.

Alderman Vaillancourt stated this is again a situation where we could be putting out hundreds of these cones throughout the City and it is just setting a wrong example that we cannot simply do this and it gets back to the other example. When you have laws that are out there that shouldn't be, such as the President Street, it leads to people disobeying laws and failing to stop for one thing or another and people should be stopping for crosswalks without having to put hundreds of cones up. I am not going to support this. I don't think the Traffic Department has ever asked us to do this.

Chairman Clancy stated I have concerns myself about the safety of citizens myself. These people cross the street from the Brady-Sullivan building...I used to know a former employee of that building and they probably had near misses many times so you know for some reason people do not slow down or adhere to the crosswalk at that intersection.

Alderman Vaillancourt asked and the cone is going to force them to do that.

Chairman Clancy answered yes. It is going to give them a heads up.

Alderman Sysyn stated it slows them down because when we had them on Bridge Street and I know that you are against them Tom but when we had them on Bridge Street they got destroyed but anyway I followed traffic down Bridge Street several times and people slowed down when they saw those cones and that will slow them down. If they are going to take care of it, I see no problem with it.

Mr. Lolicata stated I have voiced my concerns like you said and I have talked to the City Solicitor on this. He feels that if someone wants it we should let them have it but they should maintain them and put them out and take them in during the daytime. I am going to sit down with Tom Clark and have something written up because there is a liability factor involved in signing on this. Secondly, I will have these ordered for them or anybody else who wants them but those people who are requesting them will be liable, not the City and they shall be taken in and out during the morning and night. Right now, I am going to see if I can get an answer from Tom Clark.

Chairman Clancy stated my main concern is those things don't get hit during the daytime, it is at night.

Mr. Lolicata replied they get clobbered during the daytime, Alderman.

Chairman Clancy stated well most of the time, those things get hit at night.

Mr. Lolicata replied I am not here to argue, Alderman. I am just saying that I will talk to the City Solicitor. We will grant them but I just want you to know that I am against them.

Alderman Pariseau stated the City of Concord has these cones at every intersection and it works. I even stop. It is a reminder. I have no problem with this.

Alderman Vaillancourt stated so now we are deputizing private citizens to put these cones out and take them in every day. Have you talked to the City Solicitor about what happens if someone gets hit putting these cones out? Is the City liable then?

Mr. Lolicata replied according to Mr. Clark, I have been talking with him and as far as we are concerned they are going to be the ones liable. I am not going to put

the City at liability. That is why I am against this. No offense to these people who want to do it. If they come out and say that they will be responsible for it, that is fine. I am against these due to liability and all I am saying is I will do it for you and I will do it for them but there has to be something signed.

Chairman Clancy asked what is the liability. Tell me the liability.

Mr. Lolicata answered if someone hits them, Alderman, like they did down on Melvin Street on many occasions, the kids or anybody else, they clobbered them, and they veer off and hit a pedestrian or hit a car then the City is liable for putting something out in the right-of-way.

Chairman Clancy asked what are these cones made of.

Mr. Lolicata answered they are made of plastic and they have a rubber bottom.

Chairman Clancy stated they tip over if hit so what is the liability.

Mr. Lolicata stated all I am saying is it takes one accident, Alderman.

Chairman Clancy replied well if we get an accident then we will address it. After we get the problem we will address it. Until then, it stays as it.

Mr. Lolicata responded that is your prerogative. I am just going by what I know from 30 years in traffic and what is involved with liability and that is all I am presenting to you.

Chairman Clancy asked how many cases have you had in 30 years.

Mr. Lolicata answered we have been lucky. We have had three liability cases since I have been here and that is it.

Chairman Clancy stated that is not bad.

Chairman Clancy called for a vote on the motion. The motion carried with Alderman Vaillancourt being duly recorded in opposition.

Chairman Clancy stated I have one more item. I was informed today that the traffic signals at the corner of Webster and Elm Street...have we received any funds from the State for those signals.

Mr. Lolicata replied we added signals up there because of the fourth crosswalk and I don't believe there are any State funds involved. That was ours unless Jim Hoben got something from the State but I think that was just ours.

Alderman Vaillancourt asked are any of these motions that I have voted no on going to come up before the full Board. If so, I would certainly like to file a minority report such as has been done by other Committees in the past.

Chairman Clancy answered if you want to do it, you can do it.

Alderman Vaillancourt asked so these will be coming up.

Ms. Thibault answered they will be committee reports to the full Board.

Alderman Vaillancourt stated sometimes I have seen things go to Committees and they don't come back before the full Board. These will come before the Board whether or not there is a minority report?

Chairman Clancy replied yes they will be on the Board Consent agenda and if you want to take it off and discuss it, fine.

Alderman Pariseau stated all of this Committee stuff has been referred to the full board.

Alderman Vaillancourt replied well there have been three items that I have seen in the past year that I have been here that have never come back for a vote by the full Board. Not from this Committee but from other Committees so that is why I want to make sure that with this Committee it is done properly. For example, the issue I had on Aldermen not being forced not to attend certain meetings went to the Committee on Administration and never came back out of the Committee. My proposal that we set-up a special Committee to look into the financing of campaigns never came back to the full Board. I just want to make sure that this will.

There being no further business, on motion of Alderman Pariseau, duly recorded by Alderman Vaillancourt, it was voted to adjourn.

A True Record. Attest.

Clerk of Committee